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A D D R E S S

DELIVERED AT THE

TWELFTH SESSION

OF THE

American Homological Society

HELD IN

PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 15, 16, & 17, 1869.

BY

MARSHALL P. WILDER,

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY.



BOSTON :

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

1869.

Chas. L. Flint Esq
Comptroller of
Marshall Wilder

Penn. 124

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GENTLEMEN OF THE AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY:—

The earth hath again yielded her increase, and the trees of the field their fruit. Spring hath sown, summer hath ripened, and autumn is garnering a bountiful harvest.

Twenty-one years have elapsed since the organization of this Society; and now, as it has ripened into manhood, we meet for the third time in this goodly city, renowned alike as the birthplace of American Independence, and as the home of the first general efforts for the promotion of American Agriculture and Horticulture. Many who aided in the establishment of this Society have ceased from their labors; but all are not gone. Some, whose hands helped rock the cradle of its infancy, and whose wise counsels have aided in forwarding it to its present auspicious maturity,—some of the founders, men who have stood as strong pillars of our institutions, are here to-day, to witness the progress and to rejoice in the prosperity of the association.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

While we would gratefully recognize the merciful Providence which has preserved the lives of so many of the founders of this institution, and permitted us to assemble in council once more, we are reminded of the absence of one who has been our associate from the beginning. I allude to William Robert Prince, who is now no more.

Mr. Prince died suddenly at his residence, Flushing, L.I., New York, on the 28th of last March, aged seventy-four years.

Mr. Prince has been known for half a century in connec-

tion with the Linnaean nurseries, founded by his father, William Prince, and during this whole period has been distinguished as a writer on horticultural subjects. His "Treatise on the Vine," published in 1830, and his "Pomological Manual," descriptive of the fruits of the United States in 1832, are works evincing a great amount of research, ability, and information.

He was the eldest son of one of the most distinguished horticulturists in our country, and inherited a love of rural art, which endured through his life. His researches and information were alike extensive. He kept pace with the age in the acquisition of knowledge; and it may truthfully be said, that few men in any land have been so thoroughly acquainted with the march of rural progress, or so widely known in the horticultural world. He was one of the founders of this institution, and has attended most of its meetings, and shared largely in its discussions. Mr. Prince was ready and able in debate, and wielded a vigorous and prolific pen. However we may have differed with him in principles or practice, all will accord to him the merit of a frank, open, decided expression of opinion; and we concur with Mr. Meehan, editor of the *Gardener's Monthly*, "that full justice had never been done to his real worth in the horticultural world." For more than half a century he was connected with American horticulture, and, until recently, was an active and influential laborer in the cause; and, as an evidence of Mr. Prince's taste for rural pursuits, we believe he never sought position or preferment in any other employment. He was gentlemanly in his manners, social in disposition, but in debate sometimes a little severe and pungent, and to the close of life kept his armor on, ready for combat in defence of his own opinions. His name will be remembered among the leading pioneers of American Horticulture. His life has been long, active, fitful. Honor to his memory for the good he has done. Peace to his restless spirit.

We have also to add to our necrological record the name

of Henry Howland Crapo, Ex-Governor of Michigan, in which State he died in July last. Mr. Crapo was sixty-five years of age at the time of his decease. He formerly resided in New Bedford, Mass., where he was actively engaged in the culture of trees and fruits. He was one of the founders of this Society, and the first Vice-President for Massachusetts, but removed to Michigan about twelve years since. He was a gentleman of great enterprise and public spirit, and soon rose to distinction in political life; but he still retained his love for agricultural and horticultural pursuits, entering with enthusiasm into everything which pertained to the improvement of the soil, the products, and the material interests of our land. He was beloved by all who knew him, leaving an unblemished reputation both in public and private life.

IMPORTANCE OF A NATIONAL SOCIETY.

Most happy am I to meet, on this occasion, so many who have come up to co-operate with us in our efforts for improvement. Especially would I congratulate you on the re-union with our Southern brethren, whose absence, from whatever cause, we have greatly deplored. Again their voices respond to our call, again their hearts beat in unison with ours, and again their presence cheers and encourages us in our noble work. And here let me express the desire, that our brother pomologists throughout the length and breadth of the South, will give us the results of their experience; and let me repeat the hope expressed in my last address, that, at no distant day, our meetings may be held in the South, amidst the peculiar fruits of that region, so favored in its soil and climate.

How salutary the influence of such associations! Who that has witnessed the operations of this Society, can for a moment doubt the usefulness and importance of these national gatherings? The great practical truth of the present generation, said Daniel Webster, is, that public improvements are brought about by voluntary combinations and associations.

"The principle of association," said he, "the practice of bringing together men bent on the same general object, uniting their physical and intellectual efforts to that purpose, is a great improvement in our age." So say we. If there were not an apple, or pear, or grape on exhibition, the stimulation of thought produced by the contact of mind with mind, and the information acquired by the free interchange of experience is far more valuable than the same amount of knowledge derived from books. It is this centralization of action which has produced the wonderful progress of our age; but in a national society which embraces the whole country for its domain, we have the additional motive of patriotism, to bring us to our biennial meetings, where, by the exchange of cordial greetings and the influence of co-operative exertions, the representatives from the distant parts of our widely extended country become kindly affiliated; and where, on the broad platform of common philanthropy, free from sectional prejudices and party animosities, we become, indirectly, but not the less effectually, united in the bonds of friendship and reciprocal regard; and where, from loving the cause in which we are engaged, we have learned to love each other.

The importance and usefulness of a National Pomological Society is never questioned by those who from the beginning have labored with us in the acquisition of valuable information. If there be any who doubt, we commend to such the brief summary of its work for the last nineteen years given in my last biennial address. When we consider what has been accomplished, who can set bounds to the progress which may be attained during the remainder of this century! An entire revolution in the cultivation of fruits has taken place since the establishment of our society. Where trees and vines were then purchased by the dozen or hundred, they are now sold by the thousand. Where the stock of nurserymen could be summed in thousands, it is now enumerated by millions of trees and vines. Where the grape was scarcely grown a few years since, now thousands of hill-sides, from the base to the summit, are clad with the verd-

ure of the vine, and the vintage of the golden western slope promises ere long to rival in value the riches of its mines. Where fruits were considered as only a luxury for the opulent, they have now become not only a sanitary condiment, but a daily necessity of the meal. The object of this Society is to encourage the culture of fine fruits, so that they may be placed within the reach of all classes, freely and abundantly, the poor as well as the rich. The work is indeed of great magnitude. With a country so varied in soil and climate, capable of producing almost all the fruits of the globe, constantly opening up to us new resources and demands, we have occasion for new, constant, and untiring energy and enterprise.

REVISION OF CATALOGUE.

In the month of February last, an *ad-interim* meeting of the officers and Fruit Committee of the Society, with other gentlemen, was held in the city of New York, for the purpose of perfecting our catalogues of fruit, preparatory to the present session. There was a full attendance, made up principally of distinguished pomologists from the different sections of the Union. After a laborious session of two days and evenings, the meeting was adjourned, and the result of its labors will be made known at this time. The assembling of so many prominent men, eminent for their intelligence and experience, at no small expense of time and money, and for the performance of a great national duty, gave unmistakable evidence of the willingness of these gentlemen to make sacrifices for the promotion of the beneficent objects for which the Society was established. These worthy and self-sacrificing labors for the advancement of pomological science and the welfare of our country, cannot be too highly appreciated. Much as we esteem other kindred institutions, heartily as we welcome their co-operative aid and exertions, so beneficial in their own respective districts and in our deliberations, yet the American Pomological Society should enroll in its ranks the representatives not only of these organizations, but should

extend its influence and patronage throughout our territory, that all may rally under the broad ensign of its nationality, and thus build up and perpetuate a standard of pomology for our whole country. To this concert of action our society must ever look for the elements of progress and usefulness. Our onward march may not have been so rapid as we could have desired; but when we consider the vast and ever-expanding boundaries of our jurisdiction, and the difficulties attendant upon the carrying forward and sustaining a society in its early history, we should take courage from the success which has attended our past operations. And who that compares the imperfect condition of pomological science and the chaotic state of our catalogues of fruits at the time of our organization, with the correct, well-defined, and systematic knowledge of the present day, can fail to see the advance which has been made through the influence of the deliberations and conclusions of this society. The great majority of the people must be dependent on a few good varieties for their supply, and it is our province to search out from the host of new sorts those which are the most valuable for this purpose. The work of ascertaining these, and of assigning them their appropriate locations, is the legitimate and proper duty of this Society. This is constantly progressing, as will be seen by our forthcoming catalogue, and is of the most encouraging character.

INCONSTANCY OF SEASONS.

But we meet here an obstacle which will probably continue to exist,—the inconstancy of the seasons. We should not, however, be discouraged by this. Cycles of favorable and unfavorable years have always existed both in this and other lands. While one section or country suffers with drought, another is almost submerged in water. Such was the case in 1867 and 1868, between the West and East,—the former parched with drought, the latter drenched with rain, thirteen and a half inches having fallen in September of the last year,

against three and a half inches, the average amount per month for fifteen years ; and now the West is suffering with too much moisture, while New England has been blessed with a most propitious season, until the late terrific hurricane which swept the fruit from the trees on its eastern borders. Great allowances should therefore be made for this fickleness of the seasons, as well as for the non-adaptation of varieties to localities.

DETERIORATION OF VARIETIES.

We have also another difficulty to encounter ; namely, the deterioration of varieties. However we may theorize in regard to this matter, it must be admitted, from the practical point of view, that some fruits have so declined as to render it absolutely necessary to replace them with new varieties. And what has been true in the past will be so in the future. Witness certain kinds of pears in our own day,—the St. Germain, Crassane, Brown Beurre, White Doyenne, and others,—once so excellent : where are they now ? Some of these are occasionally to be seen on the virgin soils of the West and South ; yet for the great majority of locations they will continue to be worthless. And even on these new soils, where they now flourish in their pristine excellence, we have reason, judging of the future from the past, to anticipate that no long time will elapse before this decline will reach these now favored regions. Within less than a generation, the pears alluded to flourished throughout Western New York, as well as, in their early history, on the propitious soils of France. And even among the more modern pears we notice — as, for instance, in the Beurre Diel and Flemish Beauty — signs of the same decadence.

And so with the grape. Where the Catawba and Isabella grapes once succeeded perfectly, they seem now to be failing, and, in many sections of our country, are no more to be relied on. Even the Concord, now so popular, indicates that in time it may follow in the same degenerate strain. While we indulge in these forebodings, we cannot but

express the deep regret we feel for the loss of such fine fruits. Other fine fruits are following in the same course. This should not discourage us, but rather increase our enterprise for the production of new sorts, to keep up with the deterioration which seems incident to cultivation.

The mission of our society is to learn not only what varieties succeed in certain states and districts, but throughout the country. Already we have ascertained that some kinds flourish throughout a wide range of territory; for instance, the Red Astrachan apple and Bartlett pear seem to prosper everywhere. When we reflect on the wide expanse of territory daily becoming susceptible of cultivation, and that our fruits must ultimately be spread over these vast fields, it becomes a matter of great importance to increase our native fruits, some of which may be suited to these regions, and thus replace those which may decline. We therefore give a hearty welcome to the efforts of all who are laboring in this praiseworthy cause.

BENEFACtors OF MANKIND.

We rejoice that we enroll among our members so many who are engaged in the benevolent enterprise of producing new varieties of fruits. Especially would we recognize the eminent services of those associates who are devoting their lives to the study of vegetable physiology and of the insect tribes, and on whose patient investigation we so much depend for the discovery and cure of diseases, and the destruction of insects injurious to our fruits. Nor can we too highly appreciate the lives and services of those pioneers in pomology, by whose intelligence and zeal most of our fine fruits have been originated or disseminated,—of Van Mons and Esperen of Belgium, of Duhamel and Poiteau of France, of Knight and Lindley of England, of Cox, Prince, Dearborn, Lowell, Manning, and Downing, of the United States, and of others now living, whose praise is in the mouths of all. What millions have rejoiced in the

fruitage of the Summer Bon Chretien and Autumn Bergamot pear, coeval in history with the Roman Empire; the Newtown Pippin and Baldwin apple, the Doyenne and Bartlett pear, the Isabella, Catawba, Concord, and Scuppernong grape in our own time!

Who can estimate the importance and value of a new variety of fruit, which shall be adapted to the wide range of our rapidly extending cultivation. He who shall originate a new apple, pear, or grape, which shall be worthy of being handed down to posterity, should be held in remembrance as a benefactor of mankind, as well as a Franklin, Fulton, Morse, or Field. He who shall discover a remedy for the pear-blight and other diseases incident to vegetation, which now affect our trees, or an easy method for the destruction of the horde of insects so alarmingly injurious to our fruit crops, shall have his name transmitted to future time as second only to those who discover methods for the alleviation and cure of diseases which affect the human system. What greater temporal comforts can we leave to our heirs than the fruits of the orchard and garden! What more valuable testimonials of a philanthropic life than the trees we plant for future generations! Trees are the best landmarks of a noble civilization. Trees are a rich legacy to our heirs. Trees are living monuments to our memories. Fruits are perpetual mementoes to our praise. The man who plants a fruit-tree is a benefactor of his race; and when we shall have gone to our rest, when the fragrance of vernal bloom shall no longer delight the senses, when the verdure of leafy summer shall no longer inspire the soul, when the golden harvest of mellow autumn shall no longer gladden the sight, the tree shall live to bless those who shall follow us. And when, in after ages, posterity shall recline under the shade of the trees planted by our hands, and gather from their bending branches the luscious fruit, will not some grateful heart remember the giver, and ask, "*Who planted that old apple-tree?*" How beautifully is this sentiment portrayed by our own poet Bryant:—

“ What plant we in this apple-tree ?
Sweets for a hundred flowery springs,
To load the May-wind's restless wings.
When, from the orchard row, he pours
Its fragrance through our open doors.”

“ What plant we in this apple-tree ?
Fruits that shall swell in sunny June,
And reddens in the August noon,
And drop, when gentle airs come by ;
That fan the blue September sky,
While children come, with cries of glee,
And seek them where the fragrant grass
Betrays their bed to those who pass,
At the foot of the apple-tree.”

And when the thousands who have enjoyed its fruits
and shared its blessings, are buried, like its own roots, deep
in the bosom of mother earth, —

“ The children of some distant day,
Thus to some aged man shall say :
‘Who planted this old apple-tree ?’ ”

PROGRESS OF POMOLOGY.

I have, on a former occasion, alluded to the wonderful progress of pomology in our day, and I deem it proper, although at the risk of repeating previous statements, to erect, as it were, some landmarks by which we and those who come after us can measure its advancement. With all the boasted civilization of Greece and Rome, we are far in advance of their highest standard, in all that tends to the real comforts of life and the elevation of our race. The science of pomology forms no exception to this remark; indeed, the improvement since the time of Pliny and Columella is infinite. From the fall of the Roman Empire to the close of the seventeenth century, it is true we know but little of its progress; for this, like all other arts and sciences, was hidden by the darkness which enveloped the ages during so large a part of these years. Pomology, like other refined pursuits,

found an asylum in the only sanctuary then known for the arts of peace—the monastery. In these quiet retreats were cultivated and perfected the best varieties of fruits; and doubtless some which they have transmitted to us have been produced from seed under their patient care and nurture. Although the records of pomology during these years are but few, still we may glean some idea of the manner in which the art was preserved, from incidental notices, from the old trees still found growing amidst the remains of these institutions, and from the new and fine varieties whose origin is traced to them, and whose names they often bear. Nor do we doubt that the grape, now exciting so much attention, received especial care, not only for the rich clusters which crowned the dessert, but also for the “wine which maketh glad the heart of man.”

But how meagre the list of good fruits which have been handed down from them, when compared with those of later times! If any of the pears of Roman origin yet remain, they are only to be found among the cooking varieties, or else they are so dry, coarse, and inferior as to merit a place only in the pages of the writers of two centuries ago. Now we have collections consisting of ten to fifteen hundred varieties, among which are many embracing in the highest degree all the characteristics of size, beauty, flavor, and form which constitute a perfect fruit; and instead of fruits confined to a short period of use, the art of the cultivator has extended the season of maturity over the greater portion of the year. Think what Gov. Endicott, of Salem, or Gov. Stuyvesant, of New York, would have said if they had been told that their example in the first planting of a single pear-tree would be multiplied into thousands of orchards, and that, instead of a few pears for the summer season, every month in the year would be supplied with its appropriate sort; or what was then considered an aristocratic tree, to be trained and nursed only in the gardens of the opulent, should be planted in orchards of five or more thousands of a single variety, and be enjoyed by the western pioneers as well as by the eastern magistrates!

How would the soul of the generous Peregrine White, of Pilgrim memory, have swelled with joy, had he known that, in a little more than two centuries from the time of planting his apple-tree at Plymouth, this fruit would become almost an article of daily food; or that his orchard of one tree would be magnified into orchards of twenty thousand or more trees of a single variety, as in the case of Mr. Pell's Newtown Pippin! And although it is recorded, some years after, that Gov. Winthrop had a good store of pippins in his garden, yet neither of these gentlemen could have foreseen the influence of their example in New England, to say nothing of the three counties of Western New York, then and for more than a hundred and fifty years afterward a wilderness, from which there have been sent annually to market five hundred thousand barrels of apples, in addition to what were retained at home for consumption; or the new orchards of our youthful State of Nebraska, some of which contain seven thousand trees, mostly in bearing at the age of six or eight years; or the other millions of trees planted, sufficient to regale the appetites of every man, woman, and child in the United States, with their fruit.

What would the Caesars, with all their luxuries, have thought of their half-formed mongrel peaches, so deleterious to health, when compared with the delicious varieties into which they have been developed by the hand of skill, guiding and assisting nature in her efforts for improvement, so that in many parts of our country they are almost spontaneously produced, a fine variety being assured merely by planting the stones, without the trouble of budding or grafting; or what would De la Quintiney, that skilful gardener of Louis XIV., have thought when comparing the products of the world-renowned peach-gardens of Montreuil with the immense quantities raised in our Southern, Western, and Middle States, especially the latter, from whence are brought to New York—not to speak of other great markets—between one and two hundred car-loads, besides those received by steamboats and other sources, daily, making an

aggregate of from eighty to one hundred thousand bushels of this delicious fruit, affording in number more than two peaches to every inhabitant of that great city!

But what shall be said of the grape? The only two varieties generally cultivated in our northern gardens twenty-five years ago were the Isabella and Catawba. What would Mrs. Isabella Gibbs and Mr. John Adlum, to whom we are so much indebted for the introduction of these varieties, have said if they could have realized, that within less than fifty years the cultivation of the grape would be extended almost over our whole union; that, in addition to these, we should have numerous varieties adapted to every section of our country; that millions of vines would be planted on our hillsides and the banks of our Western lakes and rivers; that wild and waste lands would be converted into smiling vineyards, rivalling, in luxuriance and abundant product, the vine-clad hills of Europe; that vines would be sold for a few cents each, thus enabling the humblest cottager to sit beneath its shade, enjoy a fragrance richer than the rose, and pluck for the wife and weans the purple clusters from his own vine;—or from the ripe berries, if he choose, “crush the sweet poison of misused wine.” Surely, even the sanguine Nicholas Longworth, the great American pioneer in vine culture,—all honor to his memory!—could not have predicted that, within half a century, the manufacture of this juice would exceed, in a single State, more than five millions of gallons per year.

Mark the amazing increase of the small fruits. Take, for instance, the strawberry. Within the memory of many of this assembly, we were dependent almost wholly upon the wild species of the field, or the few which had been transplanted to our gardens. It is only about thirty years since the first attempt, we believe, was made on this continent to raise from seed a new and improved variety,—thanks to the enterprise of Mr. Hovey, which gave us a fruit that has stood the test for a whole generation of men. Compare the small, dry, seedy, red and white wood strawberries of our

youth, with the numerous, larger, luscious varieties which have come to notice in our day. Not only have the latter increased to hundreds of varieties within this time, but the quantity produced is in a still greater ratio. What would our fathers have said at the dispatch from a single railroad station in the Western States, where fifty years ago the emigrant had scarcely set his foot, of one thousand bushels of strawberries daily to market! or from another depot on the unoccupied lands of New Jersey taken up within fifteen years, a similar quantity sent to the New-York market daily! or, still more remarkable, from Norfolk, in Virginia, where seventeen years ago the cultivation of this fruit had not commenced, and from whence during the present season, three millions of quarts have been sent to the Northern markets!

Thirty years ago, we possessed only two good varieties of the raspberry,—the Red and White Antwerp: now we have numerous fine kinds; and where a man thought himself fortunate to gather a saucer-full, it is raised, as by our friend William Parry of New Jersey, by hundreds or thousands of bushels for the market. So of the currant and blackberry. Of the latter not a single variety had then been introduced into our gardens or our catalogues: now we have many new kinds, and the product is equally great.

Such is the onward march of civilization and refinement in our own day. How cheering and inspiring the omens of the future! Our illustrations in some particulars may seem to be too highly colored and too hopeful, but we think time will prove them to be substantially correct. Such is our rapid progress, that, if any apparent over-statement has been made, its correctness will be verified or even exceeded while we yet speak.

How would our eyes have been gladdened and our hopes have been encouraged, if, in our early exhibitions, we could have had a vision of the extended displays of the present time, where, instead of two baskets of fruit, presented at the first exhibition of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society,

by Robert Manning, the great eastern pioneer, were afterwards brought, from the same garden, nearly three hundred varieties of the pear, not to speak of other fruits! and how would our confidence have been strengthened and our zeal have been excited, if any prophetic eye could have pictured to us a view of such magnificent exhibitions as were witnessed at St. Louis at our last session, or could even have foreshadowed the cornucopial display in the grand Philadelphian temple of horticulture, on the present occasion!

And how would the founders of the Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Horticultural Societies—the first and for many years the only societies on this continent for the promotion of horticulture—have rejoiced in the anticipation of the multiplication of institutions, all of which recognize fruit culture as a prominent object. The first agricultural society and the first horticultural society in this country were established in this city, the former in 1785, the latter in 1827. Truly, “a little one has become a thousand,” there being now enumerated on the books of the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, more than thirteen hundred organizations, including state, county, and town societies, for promoting the culture of the soil.

The first agricultural newspaper printed in America, the *American Farmer*, made its appearance in 1820, less than fifty years ago. How would the enterprise and ambition of its valiant editor, John S. Skinner, have been excited by the idea that, within half a century, some of its successors would enroll on their subscription lists the names of one hundred and fifty thousand persons, thereby exciting the surprise and admiration of the old world! Magazines, periodicals, and papers devoted to horticulture furnish testimony equally gratifying; and where, within the knowledge of some present, there was but one horticultural journal published in our country, there are now numerous monthlies and other periodicals whose columns of editorial and other appropriate matter compare favorably with the best European publications of the day. Nor is this all. Thousands of secular and even

religious papers have special columns on these subjects, without which their success would be doubtful.

Some are here to-day who remember the condition of the few nurseries on our eastern shores fifty years ago — for there were scarcely any in other States. These were limited to a few hundred acres in all. Those in New England, from whence emanated so much of the early interest of our country in fruit-culture, were not, in total extent, half so large as that of a single establishment in Western New York, at the present time, supposed to be the largest in the world. Nurseries of large extent are now distributed throughout the length and breadth of our domain, sending out, annually, an amount of trees and plants that would then have been deemed fabulous; single towns, like Rochester or Geneva, possessing three thousand acres or more devoted to the nursery business. Nor should I omit to mention, in this connection, the improved methods of cultivation, the novel processes of propagation, the wonderful multiplication of trees, plants and vines, and the never-ending desire to possess every thing new, from whatever source it may come, and the universal zeal to ascertain the true value of all new productions.

The ingenious methods of gathering, preserving, and packing of fruits, and the improved means of safe transmission to distant markets, are among the most important advances in this new era. To such perfection have these been brought, that not only our small, tender fruits come to us a hundred or a thousand miles, in good order; but the grape and the pear travel from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast. While penning this address, pears and other fruits have come to our own hands, from California, in perfect condition; and, to add to our surprise, the pears of that State are finding a market in Japan. Our cheap and convenient postal facilities for the transmission of seeds, scions, and plants, promoting the introduction of new fruits into the remotest parts of the land, are such as no other nation has ever enjoyed, yet not more than commensurate with the demands of our extensive territory; and we trust the

day is not distant when we shall have equal facilities for such reciprocal advantages with the whole world.

CONCLUSION.

Gentlemen, allow me in conclusion to express to you the great satisfaction your presence affords me on this occasion. I congratulate you upon the past success and future prospects of this society; upon the interest awakened throughout our land in the cultivation of fruits; upon the increase of cultivators and consumers, stimulating production and creating a taste and a market for our fruits; upon the improved facilities for transmission, from remote sections, and from ocean to ocean; upon the multiplication of societies, and especially upon the agency of the press, in the diffusion of horticultural information, by means of books, magazines, and newspapers, whereby the knowledge of the few may become that of the many; upon the new territory which is constantly opening up to us new fields equally as well adapted to fruit culture as any now in use; and upon the improved systems of cultivation whereby the labor of days is reduced to hours.

It is our high privilege to live in an age of remarkable activity, of startling enterprise, of bold adventure, of noble achievement; an age alike distinguished for the progress of invention and intelligence in art, science, and literature. We live in a country of vast proportions, of unlimited resources, and of rising greatness,—a country to whose constantly expanding territory; to whose internal improvements, already spanning the continent; to whose thriving cities and great commercial centres, rising as by magic; to whose population, commingling from all climes and quarters of the world, and to whose wealth, power, and prowess, no prophecy can yet set bounds. Already our American farm extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans; and it is only a question of time when it shall be bounded on the north by the Arctic, and on the south by Cape Horn.

In all this progress, in all the development of the inexhaustible resources of our continent, American Pomology is to constitute one of the most important sources of national wealth and happiness. When we look back to the march of enterprise and civilization on this continent; when we reflect on the advancement of our own favorite art since the organization of this Society; and when we look forward to the millions that shall reap the harvest of our sowing, long after we shall have passed from the scenes of earth, who does not feel a deep interest in the welfare of our association and the objects it seeks to promote?

Let us then be encouraged by our past success, and be excited to renewed endeavors and confidence in the future. Our association was the first national institution established for the promotion of pomology of which we have any record. First in inception, may it ever be *first* in advancement, *first* in usefulness. Enterprise, improvement, and perseverance are the great practical elements of progress. Let our watchwords be *onward,—upward—persevere—prosper.* Let us work together as mutual helpers; let us strengthen the bonds of affection between our brethren in all parts of our great republic, acknowledging no sectional interest, party, or creed, and only the prosperity of our cause, the promotion of the public good, and the welfare of our American Union.

